

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HERON et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1419

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

National Phase of: PCT/GB99/03781

International Filing Date: 12 November 1999

Filed: April 16, 2001

Examiner:

For: ELECTRONIC BALLOTING

\* \* \* \* \*

April 16, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the respective counts of answered calls are in the form of subtotals on a regional basis; wherein the step of receiving messages from computer terminals includes substeps of identifying the respective source addresses, grouping the received messages on a corresponding regional basis; and wherein the combining step comprises the substeps of summing, for each of the regions and for each of said candidates, the

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